

Council Tax Increase

Residents of Haighton will have noticed a 34% increase in Haighton's component of the Council Tax bill. This follows last year's reduction in Haighton's charge of *minus* 13.2%.

The reason for the increase is owing to having to make provision for a contested election on 4th May 2023. Preston City Council charge each parish to cover the election costs; if the election is uncontested, the charge would be about £100; if it is contested, then the charge increases to about £1000 (more for parishes with a greater number of electors).

Haighton Parish Council's Precept request has been £750 per year for the last decade. That covers all of our running costs: stationery, broadband, printing etc.. The Clerk receives no salary because he is also a Parish Councillor. The possibility of a contested election forced us to increase the precept from £750 to £1050; a £300 increase.

The Members of Haighton Parish Council regret this increase in Haighton's component of the Council Tax, but we cannot risk 'going into the red'- the parish council has no overdraft facility. Next year's Council Tax bill should show a return to normality with a 0% increase.

J N Jones, Parish Councillor and Clerk, Haighton Parish Councillor

20th March 2023